

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
October 28, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:34 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Father Pat Gaza – retired from S.S. Monica & Luke & St. Mark Catholic Churches

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

Mrs. Miano and Mr. Widing were absent. All other members were present. Mr. Pettit presided over the meeting in Mrs. Miano's absence.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:**

A motion was made by Mr. Hardaway to add Ordinance 14-32 to today's agenda. Mr. Spann seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried by a voice vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated October 28, 2014.

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2014. Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mr. Goralczyk had no report.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Pettit announced the acceptance and final approval for Prairie Creek Phase One to be placed in Town of Merrillville inventory was made at the workshop on October 22, 2014. At this time there is no bond in place for Phase Two. Mr. Pettit made a motion to accept final approval of Phase One for Prairie Creek, but that no building permits, whatsoever, will be issued for Phase Three until further notice. Phase Two needs to be completed by June 30, 2015. Mr. Hardaway seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried by a voice vote.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Mr. Spann had no report.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to approve the renewal for Aetna medical, Guardian dental, Guardian VSP vision and Lincoln basic life accidental death and dismemberment and voluntary life insurance benefits effective January 1, 2015 as presented by Forest Financial Group. The renewal includes an increase in the life insurance to \$25,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried by a voice vote.

Mrs. Barron made a motion to apply any insurance refund money that we have back to the insurance to provide better insurance, or to give back to the full time employees. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. The motion was carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Goralczyk made a motion to approve a new position titled "Director of the Parks and Recreation Department." He directed the Town Manager prepare a job description and advertise for the position. The salary for this position will range from \$46,000 to \$50,000 per year based on education and experience. Applications, along with a resume, will be due in the Town Manager's office no later than Friday, December 5, 2014 at noon. The position of director replaces the current position of superintendent. In addition, Mr. Goralczyk included in the motion the hiring of a part-time secretary for the Parks and Recreation Department. The position will consist of approximately 28 hours per week. Mr. Hardaway seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a voice vote.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mr. Widing was not present; however, the Council reiterated "Trick-or-Treat" hours will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 31, 2014.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Mr. Spann announced the **Town Hall** Trick-or-Treat hours are Friday, October 31, 2014 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mr. Goralczyk asked residents to keep stormwater drains clear of leaves.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Mrs. Miano was not present.

Mr. Pettit announced the annual Crossroads Regional Chamber Gala will be held November 22, 2014, at the Radisson.

Mr. Hardaway announced a Veterans Day program will take place at Veterans Park at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Also, Spring Mill Health Care Campus is offering free breakfasts to veterans on Veterans Day from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. If interested, please RSVP to 756-0744.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Goralczyk asked for the status on the Field House. Mr. Bushemi told him it was on schedule.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mrs. Barron thanked a representative from the environmental program at Merrillville High School for picking up four containers to place in the cafeteria in the high school for the cap program.

**TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION:**

No report

**ADA COMPLIANCES:**

No report

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

Mr. Hardaway reported we will determine if any vacant homes need to be secured by boarding up doors, especially back doors. Mr. Spires told him that Public Works can perform the board ups. Mr. Hardaway asked fellow council members to contact Public Works regarding any homes that need to have the doors boarded up.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 14-31:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Parks Fund for the year 2014 not included in the current budget in the amount of \$60,000. Mrs. Barron made the motion to approve and Mr. Spann seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote, 5/0.

**Ord. 14-32:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville Town Council, Lake County, Indiana, affirming parental responsibility for school attendance of their minor children. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway seconded the motion. Mr. Goralczyk asked if we were prepared to move forward. Judge Jones responded yes, and thanked the Council. The motion was approved by a roll call vote, 5/0.

A motion was made by Mr. Hardaway to suspend the rules to allow a second reading today regarding the adoption of Ordinance 14-32. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goralczyk. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote, 5/0.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 14-32:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville Town Council, Lake County, Indiana, affirming parental responsibility for school attendance of their minor children. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Spann seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion was approved by a roll call vote, 5/0.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res. 14-45:** A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2014 budget within the Health, Life and AD&D fund. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Spann seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

**Res. 14-46:** A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2014 budget within the Planning and Building department fund. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Hardaway seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

**Res. 14-48:** A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, approving an order of the Town of Merrillville Plan Commission approving an amendment to an economic development plan previously adopted by the Town of Merrillville Redevelopment Commission. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Spann seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:**

**Petitioner:** Versa Development  
**Owner:** Meijer Stores, L.P.  
**Request:** Special exception approval in a C-3, highway commercial zone  
**Purpose:** For a restaurant with drive thru to be known as Starbucks Coffee  
**Location:** 725 West 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
**Case#:** Z26E13-0914  
**Conditions:** For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only

Approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals on September 24, 2014 by a vote of 5/0. The Merrillville Plan Commission must approve the resubdivision of Meijer Plat Lot 3. MPC approved resubdivision of Lot 3 of the Meijer Plat on September 16, 2014.

Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no public comment. The motion carried, 5/0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was a discussion regarding the price of building permits issued to town employees. A workshop will be scheduled to evaluate the fees.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on cassette tape and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, October 29, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.  
Stormwater Management Board meeting, November 5, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.  
Plan Commission workshop, November 5, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. *is cancelled*  
Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, November 12, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.  
Redevelopment Commission meeting, November 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.  
Town Council meeting, November 12, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.  
73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue/Madison Street reconstruction public meeting, November 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.  
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**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hardaway and seconded by Mr. Spann. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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**Shawn Pettit, Vice President**

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**Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer**